(b) whether a decision to this effect was taken at 31st Session of Committee of Experts held in February, 2002 at WIPO; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) At 31st Session Meeting of International Patent Classification Union, it was decided that a Traditional Knowledge Resource Classification elaborated in India would be taken up for further study by a WIPO Task Force, with a view to investigate its information aspects and its relationship to the International Patent Classification.

Seismological equipment in Bangalore

3851. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is no seismological equipment in the Bangalore City to measure earthquakes; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) Sir, at present there is no seismological observatory in the Bangalore City; however, a modern broadband seismological observatory is functional at Kolar Gold Fields and a digital telemetry system has also been maintained and operated by Bhaba Atomic Research Centre at Gauribidnoor. The equipments installed at these locations are very sensitive and capable of picking up very low magnitude events occurring in and around Bangalore City. The Department of Science and Technology has recently evolved a project proposal to install a few strong motion equipments in the Bangalore urban centre for recording near Field seismic data.

Operationalising SARAS

3852. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that SARAS, the country's first 14 seater indigenous multirole Light Transport Aircraft is ready;

(b) if so, whether the trials of this aircraft are over; and

(c) by when this aircraft will become fully operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the first prototype of multirole Light Transport Aircraft SARAS has been fully integrated with all its systems. The aircraft was rolled out on 4th February, 2003. Aircraft level system tests are being carried out and aircraft is being readied for the first test flight.

(c) The aircraft would undergo flight testing for type certification as per the requirements of Director General, Civil Aviation (DGCA). As soon as the flight tests are completed and type certification from DGCA is received it would be available for operationalisation.

R and D Projects of CSIR

3853. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many R and D Projects could not progress fast due to lack of funds whereas the private firms investments are much larger than Government on R and D Projects;

(b) what are the major projects currently being undertaken by the CSIR; and

(c) the details regarding funds allocated to each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) CSIR is operating six Plan Schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 2430 crore. The scheme with their approved Tenth Plan Outlay are :

(i) National Laboratories (Rs. 1800 crore)

(ii) National S & T Human Resource Development (Rs. 45 crore)

(iii) Intellectual Property and Technology Management (Rs. 100 crore)

(iv) New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (Rs. 205 crore)